

## **Bush River Community Council**

### **April 18, 2011 Meeting Minutes**

The second meeting of the Bush River Community Council (BRCC) was called to order by the Chairman, John Paff, at 6:32 p.m. in the Media Room, Church Creek Elementary School on April 18, 2011. Senator Nancy Jacobs, County Council President Boniface, County Councilwoman Mary Ann Lisanti, County Executive's Chief of Staff Aaron Tomarchio and Patricia Gonzales from the County Executive Staff were present. Council Board members in attendance were John Paff, Larry Carmichael, Glenn Dudderar, Harry Webster, Randy Conlon, Kathleen Leary and Mary Starks. Carolyn Shea was absent. 24 members of the Bush River community attended. The Chairman led all present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States.

Maryland State Senator Nancy Jacobs indicated that she will be attending our meetings when the legislature is not in session and that she is very glad the Bush River Community Council has been established. She offered her assistance to all present. In answer to a concern, she commiserated that Maryland is a very high tax state for retirees especially in comparison to Pennsylvania which does not tax government pensions as income. She also indicated that this year almost every tax and fee was increased under the current administration.

The County Council President, Mr. Boniface, was also glad to see the establishment of the council and will attend when possible, but assured the council that he will work very closely with Councilwoman Lisanti on all issues of concern to the Bush River Community.

Councilwoman Lisanti presented copies of those portions of the 2012 county budget which pertain to Bush River Community projects. There will be two open budget hearings: May 4<sup>th</sup> at North Harford High School and May 5 at Edgewood High School at 6:30 pm. She also notified the council that information has been received that an island between Bush River and Gunpowder River is being considered for dumping spoilage from dredging the Baltimore Inner Harbor. She will get more information on this and encouraged all to get on her mailing list to keep up to date on it. In answer to a question, she indicated that the County Council recognized that the BRAC impact fee of \$8,300 was too high in this declining real estate environment and reduced it to \$6,000. However, there will be no reimbursement to those who paid the higher amount previously. In a future meeting, she will ask a representative to speak to use on legal and appropriate means to address adult book stores in our community.

Mr. Pete Gutwald from the County Planning and Zoning Department and Mr. Jeff Stratmeyer from the County Transportation Department presented the status of the planned access roads onto the Perryman peninsula to facilitate potential economic development in that area. Because Aberdeen Proving Ground refuses to permit access from the peninsula through to Route 715, two access roads are being designed. One will include a two span, bridge providing 5-lanes over water and marsh land connecting Spesutia Road to Route 40 via Mitchell Lane and will be visible from Route 40. The bridge will be built in two increments beginning with one two-lane with a turn lane in the current budget. Currently, the peninsula has either developed or is under contract to build only a small percentage of the available land zoned for light industrial use which includes office buildings, distribution warehouses, and manufacturing. The 2012 budget includes capital funds for property acquisition along Mitchell Lane. There was much concern raised by residents who live in the area about impact of the large roads on residents and the noise and traffic associated with it as well as the cost of the projects, especially

building it incrementally. Also, there is a concern for the environmental impact of such an endeavor in critical areas. The BRCC chairman appointed Harry Webster to chair a committee on Transportation to meet with government staff, developers and APG to address all concerns and improve communication with residents on pending changes and impact resulting from these new roads.

Three representatives from the Harford County Sheriff's Department gave a presentations on the new Southern Harford County Precinct which is being built at Route 40 and Route 152 in the old Bonnie Brea Truck Stop property. They expect to move into the two-story, 32,000 square foot facility by February/March 2012. The facility will house 120 deputies; it will consolidate the Community Activity Response, Special Operations, and Gang units as well as provide garage space for all tactical equipment. Currently, garage space is leased throughout the county and this consolidation will cut \$42,000 from the current cost. The facility will have 4 holding cells to temporarily contain suspects while they are processed prior to transportation to jail and to hold juvenile offenders while awaiting parents. There will also be a large Community Room to seat 50 – 75 people for use by civic/community organizations. This precinct is county funded. They also mentioned that there is a plan to build a precinct in Churchville in the future. Crime statistics for the past 30 days is available at [www.harfordsheriff.org](http://www.harfordsheriff.org). They recommend we use the official web site as there are several sites which provide bogus and misleading information. Reminders to the community:

Lock car doors. Many car thefts are the result of unlocked doors and open garage doors.

Re program GPS so it does not show a home address as the starting point. Thieves use this information to target homes as well. Do not leave GPS in view. In answer to a question, they stated that theft of copper wire from construction sites has declined since last month.

Mr. Tomarchio conveyed the sad news that Governor Donald Shaffer passed away. The council held a moment of silence in remembrance of the Governor.

The Chairman indicated that the In-State Tuition for Illegal Aliens bill will have significant impact on Harford Community College. He is working toward a referendum on that issue and asked for assistance from interested council members.

Mr. Bob Frisch from the Harford County School Board indicated that the original budget for education called to cut 77 teacher positions, but the board worked hard to revise the budget and reallocate resources so that only 7 administrative position would be cut.

The Vice Chairman, Larry Carmichael, prepared a slide presentation with pictures and locations of businesses and properties along Route 40 within the BRCC that are seriously deteriorating. He discussed the information and provided it to Ms Gonzales to pass along to the Planning and Zoning Department for action to help clean up our community.

The Chairman indicated that the council is working on determining parks to adopt for clean up and maintenance. He thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 8:30 pm.